

STORMY WEATHER

Challenge

Streets and parking lots do more than cover the ground, they affect an area's drainage. When it rains, all that water has to go somewhere. In places like Fort Wayne, that somewhere is the local overflow system. The City uses tax dollars to maintain and improve it, and charges based on a property's "impervious surfaces." So it's important to know how much pavement there is on properties around the city. The question is, how do you get that information without going out and measuring each parking lot? And once you know, how do you keep it current?

Action

A coalition of public and private partners had helped Indiana acquire statewide orthophotography - digital aerial photography – for the first time. Local governments received 1-foot resolution photography for free. For Fort Wayne, this meant not having to obtain the data themselves for another three years, a savings of about \$100,000. Once they had it, they were able to find, mark, and measure all the impervious surfaces in the city over one summer.

Results

- A net annual increase of \$88,000 for the Stormwater Utility
- Greatly reduced staff time to credit or debit incorrectly measured properties
- Reduced number of disgruntled citizens that get debited for measurement discrepancies
- The new accurate boundaries can be seen by other employees through the City's intranet
- More departments will be able to give citizens accurate Stormwater information without the citizen being passed around from department to department



Inaccurately outlined pavement



Accurately outlined pavement